

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6488
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; USIA FOR IEU, ICS

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, UR, PINT, PFOR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMSPEC RICHARD SCAMMON

1. SUMMARY. AMSPEC AND MRS. RICHARD SCAMMON DEPARTED THE USSR APRIL 16 AFTER SIX DAYS IN MOSCOW AS GUESTS OF THE USA INSTITUTE. SCAMMONS WERE VERY PLEASED WITH HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO THEM BY INSTITUTE AND EMBASSY. SCAMMON WAS EXCELLENT SPOKESMAN ON CURRENT U.S. SCENE. END SUMMARY.

2. SCAMMON LECTURED TWICE AT USA INSTITUTE, ONCE ON 1976 ELECTION RESULTS AND POLICIES OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND ONCE ON POLITICAL POLLING AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE U.S EACH LECTURE WAS ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY TWENTY INSTITUTE STAFF MEMBERS AND DISCUSSION PERIODS FOLLOWED PRESENTATIONS. INSTITUTE STAFFERS CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS WITH SCAMMON OVER THREE LUNCHES THEY ARRANGED IN HIS HONOR AND ALSO AT ONE HOSTED BY DCM. INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR BOGDANOV TOOK ACTIVE PART IN SCAMMON'S PROGRAM,
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INCLUDING MEETING PRIVATELY WITH HIM FOR LENGTHY DISCUSSION. SCAMMON CHARACTERIZED HIS SESSIONS WITH BOGDANOV AS PARTICULARLY FRANK AND INTERESTING. SCAMMON CITED TWO YOUNGER INSTITUTE STAFF MEMBERS, VIKTOR LINNIK AND SERGEY PLECHNOV, AS THOSE WHO IMPRESSED HIM MOST WITH THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN POLITICS AND WITH THE SOPHISTICATION OF THEIR QUESTIONS.

3. USA INSTITUTE ARRANGED FOR SCAMMON TO VISIT IMEMO, WHERE HE SPENT ON HOUR WITH OLEG NIKOLAYEVITCH BYKOV, CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT. SCAMMON CHARACTERIZED BYKOV AS "COLD AND DOGMATIC" AND ADDED THAT BYKOV SEEMED IN FACT NOT TO BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ANYTHING FROM HIM ABOUT CURRENT POLITICAL ATTITUDES IN U.S. (COMMENT: THIS HAS NOT BEEN EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION OF BYKOV IN ITS MANY DEALINGS WITH HIM.)

4. AT EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION, SCAMMON VISITED THE INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC INFO ON THE SOCIAL SCIENCES FOR ONE-HOUR DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR KYUZADZHUAN (WHO ALSO ATTENDED DCM'S LUNCH) AND TOP STAFF MEMBER ON U.S. AFFAIRS AND STUDENT OF PUBLIC OPINION POLLING KLARA BOYKO. DISCUSSION WAS SPLIT BETWEEN REVIEW OF POLLING TECHNIQUE AND SIGNIFICANCE IN U.S. AND INSTITUTE'S WORK IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTEREST IN EXPANDED TIES WITH U.S. INSTITUTIONS.

5. SCAMMON AND USA INSTITUTE STAFF MEMBER CALLED APRIL 14 ON DMITRI NIKOLAYEVICH NIKITIN, CHIEF OF THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET. NIKITIN DOMINATED THE ONE-HOUR MEETING, SPEAKING ON SOVIET ELECTIONS AND SKILLFULLY AVOIDING SCAMMON'S QUESTIONS ON, INTER ALIA, SOVIET VOTER REGISTRATION.

6. SCAMMON DISCUSSED CURRENT U.S. POLITICAL SCENE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR POLICIES TOWARD SOVIET UNION WITH IZVESTIA DEPUTY FOREIGN EDITOR MELOR STURUA AND SERGEY VISHNEVSKIY OF PRAVDA ALONG WITH SEVERAL MOSCOW BASED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS AT INFORMATION OFFICER'S DINNER IN HIS HONOR APRIL 14.

7. SCAMMON IS OUTSTANDING ON AMERICAN POLITICS AND ESPECIALLY IN HIS ABILITY TO DOCUMENT AND EXPLAIN THE DEGREE OF POPULAR SENTIMENT ON PARTICULAR ISSUES. HE MISSED NO CHANCE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE CURRENT WILLINGNESS IN THE U.S. TO SPEND MORE ON DEFENSE IF ACCEPTABLE SALT AGREEMENT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED. HIS VISIT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY USEFUL AS MEANS OF AGAIN IMPRESSING, AT LEAST IN USA INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP AND KEY STAFF MEMBERS, THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CURRENT US-USSR RELATIONS ARE BEING VIEWED IN U.S.

8. SCAMMON'S VISIT WAS FIRST ONE ARRANGED JOINTLY BY

EMBASSY AND INSTITUTE, I. E. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS WERE HANDLED BY U.S. SIDE WHILE INSTITUTE PICKED UP ALL LOCAL COSTS (HOTEL, MEALS, EVEN SPENDING MONEY). INSTITUTE WILLINGLY ACCOMMODATED EMBASSY'S WISHES RE SOCIAL EVENTS AND VISITS TO INION. EMBOFF DID NOT ACCOMPANY SCAMMON TO SESSION AT USA INSTITUTE, AT IMEMO, OR AT SUPREME SOVIET, BUT SCAMMON'S CLEAR GRASP OF ISSUESN, HIS PAST EXPERIENCE IN THE DEPARTMENT AND AS AMSPEC ELSEWHERE, AND ESPECIALLY HIS WILLINGNESS TO REPORT TO EMBASSY IN DETAIL ON EACH SESSION OBVIATED NEED FOR EXCORT. EMBASSY SUGGESTS SCAMMON BE DEBRIEFED AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY BY DEPARTMENT AND USIA.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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